

## Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is “to give hands and feet to the Gospel of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of the church and to ensure that the congregation is involved in the mission of Jesus Christ in deeds of mercy and compassion.” The Mission Committee members for 2016 were Nancy Henning, Bob and Mary Keyt, and Matt Weinell. Susie Graves joined later in the year.

Lafayette continues to be a “tithing congregation,” meaning that we give about 10% of our budget to Mission. The Committee ascertained that budgeted giving supported the designated recipients of mission funds. These included the Presbytery of Florida (which funds Dogwood Acres and other projects), Gideons International, African Medical Benevolence Fund, Presbyterian University Center (or UKirk, as it became known this year), the quilting ministry, ECHO, Homeless shelter meals, Theological Education Fund, Thornwell Home for Children, Refuge House, Mathew 23 Ministries (recycled pill bottle postage), and the Mercy Fund that addresses the needs of people who come to our door asking for help.

One very special project benefitted Thornwell Home for Children as the congregation “packed the pulpit” with items that the children needed for the summer programming, including attending camp. Generous cash donations were also made, and seven members of the congregation caravanned to Thornwell to deliver the gifts and tour the campus. While there, we treated the younger boys’ cottage and their family teachers to a dinner out at a local restaurant and had delightful conversations with the energetic youth, followed by a fun evening in the residence, partaking in games and conversations. The next day included a tour of the beautiful campus and lunch at the cottage for the older boys. They shared their observations about life at Thornwell, as well as their aspirations for the future. We left the campus knowing that our donations of money and goods were being put to good use and that the Lord’s work is done there every day with every child.

Besides a special offering to Thornwell, we supported One Great Hour of Sharing, the Joy Offering, and the Peacemaker offering. These special offerings and the generous support of the congregation exceeded the 10% goal of the budgeted dollar amount for giving.

We also sponsor Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Scouts, as well as a Food Pantry in the Pastor’s study to help meet the needs of those who arrive at our doors hungry. We also continued the quarterly Adopt-a-Road cleanup for a two-mile stretch of Buck Lake Road to continue the tradition of being good stewards of our environment.

Many other mission projects, which are described elsewhere in this annual report, were completed by our PW Circles. Also, an important mission outreach is Music with a Mission, which had two very successful concerts this year and are outlined in the Music Report. Thank you for your continued prayerful support of mission at Lafayette.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Keyt, Chair